

Appl. No.: 10/078,612  
Amdt. dated February 6, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of January 2, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 2, 2004, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-21, and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,505,682 (Brockman); claims 3, 5, 7, 8, and 11, were rejected under § 103 over Brockman alone; and claims 14 and 24-26 were rejected under § 103 over Brockman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,964,296 (Ross).

Brockman is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), since both Brockman and the present application are owned by the same entity, Schlumberger Technology Corporation, at the time the invention was made. This statement made by the undersigned is sufficient evidence to establish common ownership. *See* MPEP § 706.02 (I)(2) (8<sup>th</sup> ed., Rev. 1) at 700-53. As amended, each of the independent claims of the present application are not disclosed by Brockman. The newly added independent claims are also not disclosed by Brockman. Therefore, all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0147C1US).

Respectfully submitted,



Date: February 6, 2004

---

Dan C. Hu, Reg. No. 40,025  
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.  
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100  
Houston, Texas 77024  
(713) 468-8880 [Phone]  
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]